

placement provides access or priority status for entry into needed care.

The family lives in a state or jurisdiction in which children are deprived of federally mandated mental health services through the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) as a result of an exceedingly restrictive definition of serious emotional illness. That is, these schools often label these children as solely "discipline problems."

The family lives in a state or jurisdiction in which the local child welfare system erroneously interprets federal law (Title IV-E of the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Program) as requiring relinquishment of custody even for temporary out-of-home placements.

As all of these reports highlight, families are acting out of desperation to get immediately needed mental health services for their children. In essence, the juvenile justice and child welfare systems have become the mental health providers of last resort for far too many families.

Both the child welfare system and juvenile justice systems are ill equipped to meet these children's needs. Even worse, the psychological bond between parent and child is unnecessarily disrupted. These children feel abandoned and their parents feel guilty over their parental rights and decision-making authority and to a state agency. The stigma is real—to families themselves and to those around them. Good parents don't have their children taken away. But, in fact, the need to relinquish custody in these instances doesn't have anything to do with parenting skills. It has everything to do with our system being broken and continuing to allow these children with significant mental health needs to fall through the cracks.

We have known about this problem for many years. In fact, I first introduced legislation in 1995 attempting to address this issue. Since then I have been working with my colleagues to educate the public and other members of Congress about this issue and to find a bipartisan solution.

Our legislation, the "Keeping Families Together Act" is the result of this bipartisan and bicameral process. Our bill provides new funding to states that are willing to develop systems that assure these children get the mental health services they need without pulling apart their families.

It provides \$55 million in new family support grants to states that are willing to end the practice of child custody relinquishment and cover all these children's mental health services under Medicaid, CHIP or any other health program of their choosing. These monies can then be used to improve access to mental health and family support services that keep families together. They can also be used to create statewide care coordination programs and to deliver mental health care and family support services for these families.

Additionally, the bill establishes a federal interagency task force that is responsible for monitoring the family support grants and working with representatives of affected families to make recommendations to Congress to improve mental health services and to foster interagency cooperation in order to remove barriers that have caused child custody relinquishment. The task force is also required to provide biannual reports to Congress on its progress in improving the delivery of mental health services to seriously ill children.

The bill also provides states with the option of moving children out of hospital-based psychiatric care and into home and community based care options, which will allow them to remain with their families.

The Keeping Families Together Act is an important first step toward eliminating child custody relinquishment. I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly enact this legislation so states can develop innovative new programs that address these children's mental health needs while keeping their families together. Once we've learned what has effectively worked at the state level to restructure these programs, we will need to return to this issue at the federal level and enact broad legislation to end the practice of forced child custody relinquishment nationwide.

INTRODUCTION OF THE KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. Speaker, the term "family values" can be politically loaded, but there is nobody in this body who doesn't want to strengthen families. Likewise, I am confident there is nobody in this body who would not be horrified by the prospect of parents being forced to turn custody of their children over to state bureaucrats as a condition of meeting their basic health needs. Nevertheless, each year thousands of families are broken up because parents are forced to relinquish their custody rights to the state in order to obtain mental health services for their children.

Forty years ago, my uncle, President Kennedy, signed legislation intended to allow people with mental illnesses to gain their dignity back, and to get out of warehouse-like institutions and back into the communities where they belong. The bill my colleagues, Mr. STARK, Mr. RAMSTAD and I are introducing today, the Keeping Families Together Act, is submitted in the same spirit.

Services to treat mental disorders in children are expensive and private insurance tends to run out after a few months, leaving parents unable to afford the cost. Without any other way to get their kids the treatment they need, parents all too often must choose between custody and care. The General Accounting Office reported in April that parents in 19 states were forced to place 12,700 children in state welfare or juvenile justice agencies in 2001 in order to obtain mental health services for them. Unfortunately, this estimate is considered to be low, because 31 states did not respond to the survey.

The problem is not about resources per se; the fact is, we're still spending lots of money, but instead of spending it to keep families together, we're tearing families apart. Clearly, we already have enough broken families in this country—the last thing we should be doing is breaking up more. It's cruel and barbaric to force children out of their families and it's inhumane to give a mom or dad the Hobson's choice between their child's health and safety or custody. It is unconscionable that we frequently reward the parents who make this ultimate sacrifice by treating them like com-

mon criminals. The current situation is not only awful for the parents. It's also hard to imagine any more counterproductive thing to do to children with serious emotional disturbances than to make them feel rejected by their parents.

The Keeping Families Together Act will provide competitive grants to states to help eliminate the problem of forced parental custody relinquishment of such children. Ultimately, it will facilitate the design of care for these most desperate children, so that when a moment of crisis occurs there is an alternative to the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. It will build on existing resources to develop an improved system of care through a collaborative process including required state and private partners, as well as other entities that the governor of the state determines appropriate.

In proposing the community mental health services act in 1963, President Kennedy said that our long history of neglect of the mentally ill must end, "if our Nation is to live up to its own standards of compassion and dignity." As long as we continue to pull families apart as a condition for receiving mental health care, we are failing our own standards. I look forward to working with my colleagues in both Houses, from both parties, to end this blight.

HONORING SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMANDER PAUL DEVAUL'S COMMITMENT TO AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the longtime dedication of Junior Past County Commander Paul DeVaul to the American Legion and veterans across the country. As Suffolk County Commander for the past two years, Mr. DeVaul has exemplified true commitment to Legionnaires and has proven to be a hero to veterans everywhere. I commend the American Legion for bestowing a well-deserved Testimonial on Mr. DeVaul.

As a member of Bay Shore Post No. 365 since 1990, Paul's steadfast devotion to our veterans community serves as a benchmark for what can be accomplished through an allegiance to history and experience as a community activist. Mr. DeVaul has formed a lasting bond between the American Legion and the Long Island community by establishing recognition programs for groups who support veterans and their organizations. As the current recording Secretary for the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Committee, Paul has successfully aided his Post to take full control of the post home.

Mr. DeVaul is not only dedicated to improving the lives of our veterans but our youth as well. In creating a scholarship for outstanding music students in high school marching bands and developing an awe-inspiring Flag Day celebration for Commack elementary school, Paul has demonstrated the positive roles that our veterans organizations have in our communities.

Paul is an effective advocate for our veterans population and has a wealth of knowledge about American history. He is well-known in the community and can be counted on to deliver consistently heartfelt and moving

addresses which comforted the grief stricken Long Islanders in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

After having spent time with Mr. DeVaul I consider him a true patriot and am proud to rely on his valuable insight as a member of my Veteran's Advisory Committee. I look forward to continuing my work with Paul on initiatives that advance the goals of the American Legion and all veterans. His commitment is exemplary and I have no doubt that Paul DeVaul will continue his great works for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF STANLEY FRIEDLANDER, RESIDENT OF THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OHIO AND PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN LAND TITLE ASSOCIATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Ohioan whose career and service deserves recognition. Stanley Friedlander is the outgoing president of the American Land Title Association (ALTA). The American Land Title Association is composed of 2,400 title insurance companies, their agents, independent abstracters and attorneys who search, examine, and insure land titles to protect owners and mortgage lenders against losses from defects in titles. Many of these companies also provide additional real estate information services, such as tax search, flood certification, tax filing, and credit reporting services. These firms and individuals employ nearly 100,000 individuals and operate in every county in the country.

Stanley's entrepreneurial spirit is inspiring. While attending Kent State University, Stanley started his first job in the title insurance industry and within a year had launched his own title agency. Currently, Mr. Friedlander is the president of Continental Title Agents Corporation, which he co-founded 30 years ago, based in Cleveland, OH. Stanley's four-decade career has been committed to helping the American dream of homeownership come true. It is no surprise that Stanley became president of the American Land Title Association.

As a title agent, Stanley insures that a property bought by a consumer comes with all ownership rights or a "clean title." When purchasing a home or other real estate, one actually does not receive the land, but rather a title to the property, which may be limited by rights and claims asserted by others. Problems with title can limit one's use and enjoyment of real estate, as well as bring financial loss to both the individual purchaser and the mortgage lender.

Protection is available through title insurance. Title insurance, unlike other types of insurance, offers protection against loss arising from hazards and defects already existing in the title. The common types of problems include: deeds, will and trusts that contain improper vesting and incorrect names, outstanding mortgages, judgments and tax liens,

easements or incorrect notary acknowledgments. Specifically, a previously undisclosed heir may make a claim against a property or a forged deed was used in the transfer of title making it invalid. Title insurance offers financial protection against these and other hazards through negotiations by the title insurer with third parties, payment for defending against an attack on title as insured, and payment of claims.

As President of ALTA, Stanley is committed to guiding his industry through a time of potential challenges and recently testified before the House Financial Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.

Mr. Friedlander is also a leader in his community. He has served on the Moreland Hills Community Council and is currently involved as a member of the community's Planning Commission and the Cuyahoga County Bar Association's Grievance Committee. He is also involved in Cleveland's Hebrew Free Loan Association whose mission is to provide interest free loans to those in need. Stanley has been active in the Ohio Land Title Association (OLTA), where he chaired the Education Committee, served on the Board of Governors, and as OLTA president.

Mr. Friedlander is married to Cheryl Karner, a common pleas court judge. Together they have two children, Jennifer and Joey both in their early twenties.

I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I congratulate Mr. Friedlander on his service to ALTA during the past year and wish him continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DANA PERINO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen. Dana Perino of Washington, D.C. is a talented and dedicated public servant. Dana is a product of Colorado State University—Pueblo and is being honored by that institution with its Outstanding Alumna award. For her dedication and hard work to her nation, I am honored to recognize Dana here today.

Dana has dedicated many years to the field of communications. She is the Director of Communications for the White House Council on Environmental Quality, which oversees implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act by all Federal agencies. Dana acts as one of the administration's primary spokeswomen with regard to environmental issues, taking complex issues and making them understandable so the message can get out to concerned citizens. Prior to her work with the White House, Dana served as press secretary for former Congressman Dan Schaefer and a staff assistant in my office. From that humble beginning, Dana has gone on to do great things.

Mr. Speaker, Dana Perino is a committed and hard working public servant. Her years of service to the citizens of Colorado and the Na-

tion at large are truly an inspiration to us all. I am honored to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to Dana here today. Congratulations and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING ZURETTI GOOSBY, JR.,
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zuretti Goosby, Jr., an extraordinary citizen of Humboldt County, California who has devoted his life to public service. He is being honored for his dedication to the highest and best principles of our democracy and for his contributions to the community.

Zuretti Goosby, Jr., who serves as Field Representative for State Senator Wesley Chesbro, has been a respected leader dedicated to empowering the economically disadvantaged. He was the Executive Director of the Redwood Community Action Agency which provides a broad spectrum of services to those in need. He has tirelessly committed his time, knowledge and considerable skills to enhancing health care services to those who are underserved and continues his service on various community policy and planning committees and boards of directors, including the Community Open Door Health Centers and St. Joseph's Hospital Advisory Committee. In addition, he served as President of the Board of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center and Vice President of the Board of the Volunteer Center of the Redwoods Advisory Council.

Zuey Goosby, former Executive Director of the Yurok Tribe, has devoted himself to protecting the civil and human rights of all people, recognizing that many of our fellow citizens are still victimized by racism and poverty. He continues to contribute his efforts on behalf of indigenous cultures. He is committed to protecting the natural resource treasures of Northern California. He is a member of the City of Eureka Trails Committee and a member of the Board of Governors of the North Coast Regional Land Trust, the Humboldt Arts Council, Mainstreet Media Project and the Arcata Community Recycling Center.

A highly regarded member of the North Coast community, Zuey Goosby was born in Oakland, California and grew up in San Francisco. He and his late wife Sara came to Humboldt County and raised their two daughters, Jenckyn and Dara with care and devotion. He is a master gardener, kayaker and active walker.

Zuey Goosby is being recognized this year for his outstanding contributions to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as the Democrat of the Year 2003.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Zuretti Goosby, Jr. for his unwavering commitment to the ideals and values that sustain our great country.